

REMARKS

Claim 12 is allowed. Claims 3, 4, 7, and 11 have been amended to depend from claim 12. Accordingly, claims 3, 4, 7, and 11 are also allowable.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 13, and 36 have been cancelled.

Claim 18 has been amended.

I. Rejections Under 35 USC §103

Claims 18, 20, 23, 24, 27, 30-32 and 35 are rejected as being obvious over Lampadius in view of Starksen. Claim 18 is directed to a catheter and a lead wherein the lead has a glue segment and a guard disposed about the lead body that is proximal to and in proximity to the glue segment. The guard projects outwardly from the lead body to prevent the glue segment from contacting a wall of the catheter lumen as the lead is advanced through the lumen.

As noted previously, Lampadius was characterized by the Examiner as having a guard, which is identified in the office action as item 81. In response, Applicants pointed out that in the Lampadius disclosure, the catheter is identified as item 79 and, thus, the radial edge 81 is larger in diameter than the catheter lumen. Accordingly, the radial edge 81 cannot reside within the catheter lumen.

The Examiner has responded that there is an absence of support in claim 18 for Applicants' argument to distinguish Lampadius. The point of Applicants' argument is essentially that radial edge 81 is larger in diameter than the diameter of the catheter 79 lumen. Accordingly, claim 18 has been amended to recite that the guard has a diameter that is larger than the lead diameter but smaller than the catheter lumen diameter. Based on this amendment, there is now support in claim 18 for Applicants' argument. Moreover, given the distinction now presented over Lampadius, claim 18 and the claims dependent thereon are patentable over the combination of Lampadius in view of Starksen.

II. Conclusion

Applicants submit that the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein are fully responsive to the Final Office Action and are sufficient to overcome the rejections presented in the Final Office Action. However, there may be other arguments to be made as to why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants do not concede any such arguments by having not presented them herein.

Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned to expedite prosecution. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

Respectfully submitted,

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